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# After Forever

## Decipher

Collector's Edition



# 1. *Ex Cathedra* 2.02

- Ouverture -

music: S. Gommans · lyrics: M. Jansen

Ego iubeo et tu sequaris  
Nemo mihi obloquatur impune  
Ex cathedra

A deo ipso verba mea ad vos proveniunt  
Non obsequentes execratio condemnabit  
Subicite fato vestro et obtemperate

# 2. *Monolith of Doubt* 3.31

music: M. Jansen/S. Gommans/F. Jansen/After Forever

lyrics: F. Jansen

The ordeal has begun  
To oblige the unknown, within me

As I drown  
Cannot remember, cannot think  
As I sink, deep...

Near the monolith of doubt creeps the fear  
The fear to lose yourself  
In the severe reflection

I don't know  
A flashing moment that has frozen me  
My whole existence passed by  
Through the trusted eyes of a mirror  
But it wasn't me I could see

This monolith of everything that I have been  
Is vacillated and aghast  
The inexorable time has taught me once again  
That my features will change and macerate me

See, it's me, my monolith of doubt

# 3. *My Pledge of Allegiance #1* 6.24

-The Sealed Fate-

music: S. Gommans/M. Jansen/F. Jansen/After Forever

lyrics: M. Jansen

She kept her beauty concealed behind a curtain of suspense  
and endures her fate, molded by an ancient culture

The honour wasn't allowed to be injured  
She is going to live as her community expects her to  
I find myself confined between furtive desires  
and feelings of guilt

the letter:

These are my last words, I'm gonna leave you  
I can't stand your narrow mindedness any longer  
Forgive me...





#### 4. *Emphasis* 4.18

music: S. Gommans/M. Jansen/F. Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: F. Jansen

The game is over, time has taught life  
Open your eyes and embrace our so called paradise  
All the notions and thoughts,  
devise a way to make it yours  
The enigma of a reason

How can life be what you want it to be  
Find the emphasis in your own reality

Deviate from the search with episodic glimpses  
of a spectrum no one can see or feel, nor declare

Slowly become aware life knows it's prophecies  
Find the emphasis in your own reality

In all life you see  
A sudden shifting of events  
What's coincidence, what's faith?

The ambiguity makes the sense of our destiny worth searching for  
What can it induce?

If our being was omniscient?  
There's so much you'll never know, but...

Your life will be what you want it to be  
Find the emphasis in your own reality

#### 5. *Intrinsic* 6.44

music: M. Jansen/S. Gommans/F. Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: F. Jansen

At night, assimilate life  
In the infinite realm  
of our intrinsic side

Find, the missing parts of the mind  
The hidden truth behind  
Our dungeon of thoughts, this labyrinth

Search, it has a reason and a meaning  
Remembered and repeated  
A guide, not to be ignored

Feel, there's so much to feel  
Amnesia must confiscate an elusive link  
to consciousness

It's there, cause there's so much we don't know  
Even our own true face  
It's there, facing what we can't have

Our ideals ain't true, naked and exposed  
To the bareness of what's real  
Boundless fantasy, becomes reality  
As we breath water and run through the sand

Whispers and a scream, flying high, falling down  
And a face with no features or name  
Exposed to live, we can only divine  
Tell me, what's your reality?





## 6. *Zenith* 4.21

music: M. Jansen/S. Gommans/A. Borgman/F. Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: F. Jansen

Is there something you feel?  
Is there something you furtively know?  
Under the spell of science,  
Can we declare?

Can we allow ourselves to experience?  
Can we be open-minded enough?  
Won't we fear what we cannot defy?  
Do we need to declare?  
Break the force of habit!

Why can't you see,  
fear will impede you to break through your trivial life  
and find the missing aim to evolve

Is this the frontier, our zenith?

Can we be receptive to our ignorance?  
Will or won't we be able to reveal?  
Dulled senses and the need for proven theories  
Has masked our natural insight in life,  
and mysteries

Life is discussed and measurable  
Every aberration is observed with agony and suspicion  
Until it is declared again

## 7. *Estranged* 6.54

- A Timeless Spell -

music: M. Jansen/S. Gommans/F. Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: M. Jansen

Diving in the lake of thousand faces  
Every sign seems a delusion and fills me with doubt  
I should't look for certainty among these disorderly impressions,  
but still I do...

Being Estranged, slowly I loose the grip on the reality  
Time shall shatter what we have built up  
Being Estranged, from the reliable  
Don't even recognize the warmth you always fulfilled me with

Break through my crystallized sphere and hold me  
Enter my deepest inner self

Imprison the pain  
Besieging in vain

It feels like I'm in the middle of a movie, gazing at the script  
It shows me new insights  
Delighted by the bygone sufferings  
but already waiting for the next ones

I bend forward and look between the ripples of the lake,  
it's the leading character...

Break through my crystallized sphere and hold me, wherever you are

Deceitful memories mingled with reality  
I hold myself to the timeless spell,  
fascinated by never knowing if it really happened





8. *Imperfect Senses* 4.08

music: M. Jansen/F. Jansen

lyrics: F. Jansen

Why can't they see?  
They're to blame, I can't forgive  
It left a permanent mark behind,  
My weakness, my strength

I'm waiting for the perfect sign  
To reveal what lies inside  
There's no lie in trying,  
Why do you fear me?

Why can't you see?  
There's neither blame nor forgiveness  
Be strong by being susceptible,  
And don't quail, your frankness is your strength  
And shows their weakness

I'm / Your waiting for the perfect sign  
To reveal what lies inside  
There's no lie in trying  
Why do you fear me?

Why should I fear you?  
An open heart is just as confronting as honesty!

Why can't I forgive?  
You must stop to condemn the past

Why can't this fear be my guide?  
It will be your strength if you dare

There's no blame in my life  
Nor forgiveness for the pain

I will show them!  
Let them know who you are!  
This is my/your perfect revelation

9. *My Pledge of Allegiance* #2 5.05

-The Tempted Fate-

music: S. Gommans/M. Jansen/F. Jansen/After Forever

lyrics: M. Jansen

My decision is fixed  
The suitcases are packed  
I'm laying the letter on the table

Tonight, I will be safe and the fears will be over  
I shall outline my own way again!

I'm walking to the door,  
open it and look behind for the last time...

...but he's at the doorstep, this can't be real  
He's surprised because he notices my bags,  
immediately he grabs my wrists and pushes me inside  
I realise I'm lost...

O no, what have you done,  
what have you done where is your self respect?  
You've defiled our honour and your throth  
You crossed the line

You won't get out this time,  
you won't get out there's no other solution  
then requite you for this insult

...but he's at the doorstep, this can't be real.  
He's surprised because he notices my bags,  
immediately he grabs my wrists and pushes me inside  
While he's reading the letter I realise I'm lost...

Faded beauty, her body trembles...  
The scars of this dream will always be remembered





10. *The Key* 4.47  
music: S. Gommans/M.Jansen/F.Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: F. Jansen

The eyes, looking so cold  
Condemn failure and seek  
for perfection what will never be attained

They're judging the denying face which stares back,  
a bewildered revelation

Show me objectivity  
And let these eyes judge again

You cannot touch what you can't ever obtain  
I'm inexhaustible as well as empty,  
in my bitter search

My words are yours,  
my voice speaks for your thoughts  
I am your mirror without remorse,  
your reflection without doubts

I fall and fall,  
I must learn from the bruises,  
the scars will be my guide

There's no excuse in ignorance  
No time for weakness or regret  
Face your mirror without doubt,  
your reflection without remorse

If knowledge was wisdom,  
and wisdom the key to inner rest,  
teach me...

11. *Forlorn Hope* 6.21  
music: M. Jansen/S.Gommans/F.Jansen/After Forever  
lyrics: M. Jansen

An old man is proud,  
but behind his modest smile lies the grief  
Only one picture of his brave son remains

It seems that the vicious circle can never be broken through

The hopeful ones gathered their strength  
to achieve the apparent impossible  
but all plans seem to be in vain

As a soldier of Allah he's an example  
for the others on his bloody way to immortality

It seems that the vicious circle can never be broken through  
Because old wounds are reopened every time

This Intifada as a device to thwart the peace negotiations

He can rely on a reward in the hereafter.  
Eternal paradise awaits him

Pugnacity  
With our blood  
Show no mercy  
With our soul  
Die for heaven  
An eye for an eye  
Burn to let them...  
Suffer for all their actions

We will not move an inch  
They won't play in our hands  
We will not tolerate those who defy

We will not hesitate  
To start an attack if,  
you undermine the agreement

Let them suffer  
Stop to let them suffer!





*Floor Jansen* - Soprano  
*Mark Jansen* - Guitars, screams  
*Sander Gommans* - Guitars, grunts  
*Lando van Gils* - Synths  
*Luuk van Gerven* - Bassguitar  
*Andre Borgman* - Drums, acoustic guitars

Guest appearances

*"Ebred Strings"*

**Ebred Reijnen** - Solo Violin • **Noemi Bodden** - Violin • **Janine Baller** - Viola • **Carla Schrijner** - Violoncello  
**Roxane Steffen** - Double Bass on *all tracks...* • **Irma Kort** - Oboe on *'Intrinsic'* & *'My Pledge of Allegiance #1'*

**Jack Pisters** - Citar on *'My Pledge of Allegiance #1 & #2'* • **Rein Kolpa** (Tenor) on *'Imperfect Tenses'*

**AFTER FOREVER Choir:**

**Hans Cassa** (Bass), **Caspar De Jonge** (Tenor), **Marga Okhuizen** (Alto), **Ellen Bakker** (Soprano) on *'Ex Cathedra'*, *'Estranged'* & *'Forlorn Hope'*

Additional keyboards & piano by **Cees Kieboom**, recorded at his Digital Residence  
Choir samples by Symphony of Voices

Produced, recorded & engineered by **Stephen van Haestregt**, June - August 2001  
Additional production & mix by **Oscar Holleman** at Studio RS29, Waalwijk, The Netherlands, August - September 2001

Executive producer, coordination & research **Hans van Vuuren**  
Mastered by **Peter van 't Riet** at Sound Factory, Soest, The Netherlands

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Additional string arrangements by **Søren Leupold**, **Georg Schneider** & **AFTER FOREVER**

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